

Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, MARR, GR, US, TU, CY

SUBJECT:STATEMENT BY BRADEMAS ON ASSISTANCE TO GREECE
AND TURKEY

1. FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAS ISSUED
APRIL 15 FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT LUNCHEON GIVEN BY
THE SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

-- THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS THAT TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT
OF PROGRESS ON A FOUR-YEAR MILITARY AID ACCORD BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND GREECE WILL NOT DEFUSE OPPOSITION
TO THE RECENT FORD-KISSINGER AGREEMENT TO PAY TURKEY ONE
BILLION DOLLARS FOR THE USE BY THE UNITED STATES OF BASES
IN TURKEY:

-- 1. TURKEY REMAINS IN VIOLATION OF U.S. LAWS PROHIBIT-
ING THE USE OF U.S. ARMS FOR AGGRESSIVE PURPOSES, AND
MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO FOR THIS REASON OPPOSE FURTHER U.S.
ARMS TO TURKEY WILL NOT BE BOUGHT OFF BY A PROMISE OF ARMS
TO GREECE.

-- 2. TURKEY CONTINUES TO REFUSE TO TAKE CONCRETE
STEPS TOWARD A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE TRAGEDY OF CYPRUS,
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YET THE ACCORD WITH TURKEY REQUIRES NO PROGRESS WHATSOEVER

EVER ON CYPRUS.

-- 3. CONGRESS WILL SHARPLY QUESTION THE WISDOM OF A MULTI-YEAR AUTHORIZATION OF ARMS TO EITHER TURKEY OR GREECE FOR THIS WOULD BE TO SURRENDER CONGRESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO OVERSEE THE USE OF MILITARY AID.

-- 4. THE FORD-KISSINGER PLAN TO SPEND ONE BILLION DOLLARS FOR U.S. ARMS TO TURKEY AND SEVEN HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS FOR ARMS TO GREECE CAN ONLY ESCALATE AN ARMS RACE BETWEEN TWO NATO ALLIES IN THE ALREADY DANGEROUS EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

-- 5. ALTHOUGH IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND GREEK ALARM AT THE ARMS DEAL WITH TURKEY AND THE CONSEQUENT INSISTENCE OF GREECE ON RECEIVING PARITY IN U.S. ARMS, CONGRESS WILL QUESTION WHY THE UNITED STATES SHOULD BE PAYING ITS ALLIES TO USE BASES THAT ARE PRESUMABLY FOR THEIR SECURITY AS WELL AS OURS.

-- IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GREECE HAD NOT INTENDED TO INSIST ON SUCH PAYMENT BUT THAT IT WAS CONSTRAINED TO DO SO ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TURKEY WAS DEMANDING ONE BILLION DOLLARS. END TEXT.
ROBINSON

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